

Date Mailed
September 29, 1999

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

In the Matter of Rules Relating to Incentive or Alternative Forms
of Regulation for Telecommunications Utilities

1-AC-187

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING AND TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Technical Conference Date:	Thursday, October 21, 1999, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Location:	Public Service Commission, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, WI (Pecatonica River Conference Room – Basement)

This is a proceeding to create rules to implement the Commission's statutory mandate under Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12)(b)3. to "regulate telecommunications utilities with the goal of developing alternative forms of regulation." Specifically, the Commission "shall, by order, develop and approve an incentive regulatory plan for each telecommunications utility" to implement this mandate. The scoping statement for this rulemaking was published in Wisconsin Administrative Register No. 519 on March 31, 1999, and said, in part:

The Commission has approved by order several incentive regulatory plans in response to applications filed by telecommunications utilities. In processing these applications, the Commission has followed a set of "Guidelines for the Filing of an Alternative Regulatory Plan in Accordance with Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12)." The Commission proposes to modify, where appropriate, and codify these guidelines into administrative rules.

The Commission will propose, based on its experience, one or more standard, or model, alternative regulatory plans from which these telecommunications utilities may choose in lieu of applying for a company-specific, custom-designed plan.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will hold a technical conference on **Thursday, October 21, 1999**, at 9:30 a.m. in the Pecatonica River Conference Room at the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way first floor (lobby)

entrance. Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact the Telecommunications Division staff member listed below.

The technical conference is being held to allow parties to share their initial ideas regarding issues to be addressed in this docket. To aid in clarifying the issues in this rulemaking and to focus the discussion, the Commission sets forth this list of topics which may be considered in this rulemaking. Parties are invited to comment on whether these topics should, or should not, be included in this rulemaking. Parties are also invited to propose additional topics, consistent with the scoping statement of this rulemaking. The Staff list of tentative topics includes:

1. Considering the different rates, efficiency, and level of existing and potential competition among the many local exchange carriers, how many model plans should there be?
2. How specific should rules be regarding the provisions to be contained in the model plan(s)? If possible, should there be a Commission order which contains more specifics?
3. Are there circumstances under which companies should not be allowed to elect one or more of the model plan(s)?
4. What provisions should be included in the model plan(s) (e.g., local, access, and other rates; facilitating the transition to competition; service quality; infrastructure, etc.)?
5. Should local exchange carriers be required to file an application for alternative regulation by a specified date?
6. What procedures, if any, should be followed for those companies who do not file applications for alternative regulation?
7. What should the process be for reviewing the filing of a model plan? A company-specific plan?
8. How should the filing guidelines adopted by the Commission be modified?
9. What should the notices to customers informing them of the filing of a plan and any rate changes under the plan include?
10. What should the process be for reviewing an existing plan at the end of the term of the plan?
11. What process should be followed for amending or replacing an existing plan?
12. What items should be included under exogenous changes?

Docket 1-AC-187

Questions from the media may be directed to Jeffrey L. Butson, Public Affairs Director at (608) 267-0912. Other questions regarding this matter may be directed to Thomas Ferris, of the Telecommunications Division staff, at (608) 266-1124.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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